



# Stephens City Newsletter

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2009

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*Stephens City Newsletter* is published by the Town Government of Stephens City for its citizens, to inform, to apprise, and to clarify the issues and undertakings before the Town Government. Citizen feedback is encouraged. Contact the Town Office at 1033 Locust Street weekdays between the hours of 8:30a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or by mail: P.O. Box 250, Stephens City, VA 22655

**Phone:** 869-3087 **Fax:** 869-6166 **Police:** 868-1012 **Website:** [www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov](http://www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov)



## STEPHENS CITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

*Presents:*

**2009**

## STEPHENS CITY BUSINESS EXPO

*On the Newtown Commons*

*Saturday, September 26, 2009*

*10:00am – 4:00pm*

*(Rain Date: Sunday, September 27, 2009)*

*Come meet local business owners, watch demonstrations, get some freebies and have some fun at the first ever Stephens City Business Expo on the Newtown Commons. Listen to WINC 92.5 fm for more details and check out the Town's Website for additional information to come. Be sure and stop by on September 26, 2009 and see what our local businesses can do for you!*

## North Main Street Sidewalk Extension and Enhancement Project

### UPDATE:

*Currently we are in the process of finalizing the selection of the Design and Engineering Firm. This process can sometimes take a while as this project is being made possible through Federal Funding and VDOT is required to validate the selection process.*

*The goal is to finalize the selection of a consultant and begin the process of conceptual drawings and engineering before the end of the year and have the complete engineering by April of 2010. At that point, the project would transition into a construction phase.*

*To stay updated, keep visiting the Town's website or stop by the office.*

*Questions?  
Please Contact Town  
Planner, Brian Henshaw*



If you plan on doing any construction within the Town of Stephens City, please contact the Town Office first, prior to obtaining a Building Permit.

You will need to obtain a Town Zoning Permit prior to obtaining a Building Permit with Frederick County. Contact the Town Office with questions.

## HOW IS YOUR TOWN FARING DURING THESE SLOW ECONOMIC TIMES?

Stephens City entered these slow economic times riding a long awaited spurt of growth and development from 2004 to 2008.

For over 25 years going back to the late 1970's, Stephens City experienced only marginal increases in population growth. In 1980 the population of Stephens City was 1,186 persons. Twenty years later during the 2000 Census the population had actually decreased to 1,146 persons. Now, almost 10 years later the Town's population is estimated to be between 1450 and 1500 (about a 25% increase). This increase in population was the result of not only the addition of new subdivisions but also because of the annexation of approximately 700 acres into the Town in 2005.

After a long and drawn out annexation process with Frederick County the area of the Town's corporate limits has almost doubled providing new areas north and south of Town along Route 11 for commercial, industrial and residential growth. The Town's corporate limits now extend from just south of Appleland Sports Center to the north and to Southern States Inc. to the south. The increase in population and land has resulted in an expansion of the Town's tax base which has allowed the benefit of keeping the tax rates low, even with the expansion of services. The only exception is that the Town did impose a tax on cigarette's in 2008.

Even though development has come to a halt and many of our local businesses are down in revenue, Stephens City's budget is balanced. The Town is also in good shape with regard to debt service with only a monthly expense a little over \$10,000 for sewer plant construction and about \$7,000 a year for a police car. Unfortunately this low rate of indebtedness cannot continue much longer as the state is requiring additional sewer system improvements to meet EPA discharge regulations and the need

for additional sewage treatment capacity. However, the Town is currently holding the line in increases to the tax rates and water and sewer rates.

One way that the Town will offset the slow down in economic activity and reduced revenue sharing from the State is to make sure that everyone is paying their fair share in taxes. It is possible that 25% to 30% of the people who live in Stephens City that are required to pay personal property tax and the vehicle license tax, are currently avoiding it. This places an unfair burden on our citizens that do pay their taxes in a timely manner.

Soon, the Town will be able to place "Stops" through the DMV on any person who owes taxes to the Town or has not purchased a Town decal. This will not allow the individual to make any transactions at the DMV until the taxes are paid or decal purchased and could result in additional fees from both the Town and DMV.

The Town's has always utilized a "pay as you go" approach to governing. This serves the citizens well, especially during this trying economy.

**Mike Kehoe**  
**Town Manager**

## NEWTOWN LOCAL MARKET



**Open 4-7pm**  
**Newtown Commons**

**Every Thursday through the end of  
October**

Locally grown produce, locally raised meats  
and handmade crafts.

Local vendor information:  
Contact Angela Mohr (540- 869-8529) or  
tenoak@comcast.net or  
Kate Fravel (540-869-4994)

## Water and Sewer Billing

Water and sewer bills for the bi-monthly billing period end Tuesday, **August 24, 2009** and are due upon receipt.

After **October 5, 2009** a **10% penalty** will be added. On **Tuesday, October 12, 2009** service will be discontinued for delinquency. A reconnect fee of

**\$25** plus the full amount of the bill must be paid before service can be restored.

Just a reminder that for your convenience a night drop is available at the Town Office for dropping off check or money order payments and payments can be made online at the Town's website. Water/Sewer bills

can be paid using a Visa or MasterCard at the Town Office or online! If you pay a bill online after the due date, you will still be responsible for the 10% penalty and if the bill is paid after the shut off date, the \$25 reconnect fee will need to be paid as well, prior to reconnection at the Town Office.

**Do not put cash in the drop box!**

### THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS FREE WATER

Have you ever received a very low water and sewer bill and thought of it as a gift from the Town? Then been shocked when the next bill was big enough to make you catch your breath?

What has happened in this case is that your meter was misread on the low bill and was then correctly read the following billing period. As with bills that are too high, we here at the Town Office would like for our customers to carefully look over all their utility bills and bring anything out of the ordinary to our attention.

This will assure that you will not need to suspend buying groceries to pay a water bill which has caught up with your consumption.

*Kim S. Uttenweiler, TOWN TREASURER*

### New Town Treasurer

We would like to welcome Kim S. Uttenweiler to the Town Office staff. Kim was appointed by the Town Council in August to the Town Treasurers position. Kim comes with a long list of experience and accomplishments in the accounting field. Kim lives in Winchester with her husband, Bob and is looking forward to the shorter commute every day. Her previous job was in Washington, D.C. . Feel free to stop by and welcome Kim to the Town.



We would also like to take this opportunity to express our best wishes to Kathy Monk who retired as the Town Treasurer in June. Kathy, had worked for the Town of Stephens City since 2004.

### From the Stephens City Police Department

Trick or Treating will be on **Halloween Night, Saturday, October 31st.**

The children may go door to door from **5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. within the Town Limits.** If you do not wish to participate in the trick or treating, please leave your outside lights off.

There will be police patrol and please impress upon your children, if there is **no light on do not go to the door.**

Be sure the children have on light colored clothing and carry a flashlight or something

bright that can be seen from vehicles.

Let's make this year another safe and problem free Halloween!

*Chief, Charles Bockey*



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2009**

# Town Calendar of Events

## SEPTEMBER

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Sept. 1  | <b>TOWN COUNCIL at 7:30p.m.</b>   |
| Sept. 3  | Dr. Peter B. Stickley Meeting at 7:30p.m.   |
| Sept. 7  | <b>TOWN OFFICE CLOSED - Labor Day</b>   |
| Sept. 14 | Personnel Committee meeting at 5:00pm   |
| Sept. 15 | Historic Preservation Committee at 5:00pm   |
| Sept. 17 | Water/ Sewer meeting at 9:00 am<br>Public Works meeting at 9:30 am<br>Newtown Heritage Festival Committee at 7:00pm |
| Sept. 23 | Finance Committee at 5:00pm   |
| Sept. 28 | Parks & Recreation Commission at 7:30pm   |
| Sept. 29 | Planning Commission at 7:30pm   |

*\* All meetings subject to change without notice w/ the exception of the Town Council meeting.*

We're on the web!  
[www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov](http://www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov)

## OCTOBER

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Oct. 1  | Dr. Peter B. Stickley Meeting at 7:30p.m.  |
| Oct. 5  | <b>Water/ Sewer Bills Due without penalty</b><br><b>Sherando Homecoming Parade on Main Street and Pep Rally at the Newtown Commons</b> |
| Oct. 6  | <b>Penalties added to Water/Sewer Bills</b><br><b>Town Council Meeting at 7:30pm</b>   |
| Oct. 12 | Personnel Meeting at 7:30 pm<br><b>Water/ Sewer Shut off Date</b>  |
| Oct. 15 | Public Works Meeting at 9:00am<br>Water/ Sewer Meeting at 9:30am<br>NHF Meeting at 7:30pm  |
| Oct. 20 | HPC Meeting at 5:00pm  |
| Oct. 22 | Public Safety Meeting at 7:30pm  |
| Oct. 28 | Finance Committee at 5:00pm<br>Parks & Recreation Commission at 7:30pm   |
| Oct. 28 | <b>Planning Commission at 7:30pm</b>   |
| Oct. 31 |  |

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**

# SHERANDO WARRIOR Club

**October 19 - October 24**

## "Sherando Spirit Week"

**October 21st - 23rd**  
**Carnival on the Newtown Commons**

**Friday, October 23rd**  
**Homecoming Parade on Main Street, Stephens City**  
**Bonfire at the Newtown Commons**

**Saturday, October 24th**  
**Homecoming Game, 1pm at Sherando**